

2012

2P

TWOPIANISTS
RECORDS

CATALOGUE

WWW.TWOPIANISTS.COM

ABOUT US

Over the course of a few short years, TwoPianists Records has achieved a degree of success unprecedented for an independent classical music label situated near the southern tip of Africa. TwoPianists Records was founded in 2008 by renowned pianists Luís Magalhães and Nina Schumann, and is based in the stunningly beautiful surroundings of Stellenbosch in the Western Cape province of South Africa.

With an ambitious catalogue featuring both local and international artists, recordings issued under the TwoPianists label have twice laid claim to South African Music Awards, as well as a German Record Critic's Award and formal recognition from the famous French classical music magazine, Diapason. These accolades are in addition to shining reviews in the International Record Review and the American Record Guide, which is just two examples of the enthusiastic critical reception of their albums. This critical acclaim is not limited to program choice and quality of performance alone: in terms of recording technique, TwoPianists have set a standard that most multi-million pound multi-national record companies would be proud of.

Rather than a hindrance, being independent of large corporate interests is a source of strength for TwoPianists. Adopting an art-centred approach to creating albums, each recording project is an intimate artistic journey, allowing the musicians to have an active participation in production and sound engineering, as well as freedom in questions of interpretation and program choice. This is possible not only because Luís and Nina carefully select which artists to record, but also because the absence of profit-orientated deadlines and corporate pressure creates an atmosphere conducive to the fostering of high artistic standards.

The environment of TwoPianists Records is undoubtedly one of artistic integrity. By providing a combination of interpretative freedom, expert recording techniques and an environment conducive to the production of artworks (rather than merely manufacturing albums according to the needs of a corporate record catalogue), TwoPianists Records provides a service to both the South African and the global musical community. The success of this approach is evident, and in order to facilitate global exposure for their artists, TwoPianists Records is served by Naxos Global Logistics.

AWARDS & REVIEWS

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Selection:

- 5 Star Diapason, France: Shakespeare Inspired
- 5 Star Diapason, France: ME – On Wings of Song, Technique ☆☆☆☆☆
- German Record Critic's Award (Bestenliste) : Shakespeare Inspired
- South African Music Awards 2011: Beethoven –Cello and Piano Sonatas
- South African Music Awards 2010: Vivaldi & Piazzolla Seasons
- American Record Guide Critic's Choice: TwoPianists
- ☆☆☆☆ Ritmo, Spain: Vivaldi & Piazzolla Seasons
- ☆☆☆☆ Ritmo, Spain: Janáček, Schumann, Schubert
- ☆☆☆☆ Ritmo, Spain: Rachmaninoff Complete Works for Two Pianos
- Deutschland Radio - CD of the Week 06/09/2010: Rachmaninoff Complete Works for Two Pianos
- AllMusic.com, Best of 2010: TwoPianists
- ☆☆☆☆ BBC Music Magazine, UK: ME – On Wings of Song, Technique ☆☆☆☆☆

Reviews in:

Bresciaoggi, Ritmo, Diapason, American Record Guide, Klassik.com, Die Rheinpfalz, The Citizen, Tiroler Tageszeitung, Chopin Magazine, Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Ariama.com, The Strad, Fanfare, AllMusic.com, Die Burger, Strings, FMR, Beeld, Rapport, PianoNews, International Record Review, Deutschland Radio, Diário de Notícias, La Scena Musicale, Amazon.com, MusicWeb International, ClassicFM, Jornal de Notícias.

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OUR IMPRINTS



CATALOGUE

Recent Releases

F. LISZT - TRANSCENDENTAL ETUDES



TP1039206
Aquiles Delle Vigne
(piano)

1 CDs

Aquiles delle Vigne has reached legendary status as one of the world's most respected performers and teachers. The last pupil of Claudia Arrau, he has become an important historical link to both Arrau and Georges Cziffra.

Delle Vigne's career has taken him on 25 tours of Japan, 10 in Australia and extensive concertizing in the far corners of the globe, including venues such as Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, the Suda Hall in Tokyo and Salle Gaveau in Paris.

As a recording artist his vast discography includes recordings for EMI His Master's Voice, BMG-RCA Victor, Naxos, BASF Harmonia Mundi, Pavane and EMS, all to exceptional critical claim.

This disc, recorded for the TwoPianists label, features a dazzling display of technical and musical prowess in the Transcendental Etudes by Franz Liszt. The heroic musical vision is boldly provocative, reminding us of the younger, wilder Liszt. Some will be shocked, perhaps even disagree. But there is such a force, such strength to this performance that it makes us look at the Transcendental Etudes and imagine the impact they caused when heard for the first time.

LORI SIMS



TP1039169
Lori Sims
(piano)

1 CD



The piano constitutes the ideal musical vehicle for Romanticism for it embodies an attitude toward music which subsumes all that the instrument itself makes possible: virtuosity, nuance of expression and attention to detail as artistic ideals, communication of affect through contrast in timbre and intensity, and the ability to master both large, substantial forms, as well as intimate miniatures. The program feature on this recording exemplifies this attitude to music as much as it represents what the instrument is physically capable of.

Lori Sims received the Gold Medal at the 1998 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition – an achievement that gave her entry to an exclusive circle of prominent women pianists. Her career, and playing, has centred on two continents: Europe and the USA, both as student of Leon Fleischer and Arie Vardi and also in her great love for contemporary works as well as the traditional European repertoire.

In the first of two recordings made for the TwoPianists label, Lori introduces her European loves through such monumental works as the Beethoven Eroica Variations and the Schumann Carnival. It is offset by two beautiful Romances by Clara Schumann and three Rachmaninoff preludes.

BACH CELLO SUITES



6 009801 039275



TP1039275
Peter Martens
(cello)

2 CDs

At the time of recording this album there were already well over a hundred printed editions of the Bach Cello Suites. In addition there are almost as many recordings and one would be hard pressed to avoid the question: why another recording?

Peter Martens is one of South Africa's finest all-round musicians: principal of several of the countries' foremost orchestras, chamber musician of note, soloist and director of the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival. His collaborations have included concerts with the Brodzky Quartet and Osiris Piano Trio, as well as festivals in Russia, Holland, Austria, Portugal, the UK and the USA.

His first CD on the TwoPianists label – the Complete Beethoven Sonatas for Cello and Piano – won the coveted South African Music Award in 2011 and received rave reviews. This disc also begged the question: why another recording?

It would be foolish to claim any degree of authenticity or supremacy for any modern recording of these works even though both Peter Martens' Bach and Beethoven recordings take academic scholarship and performance practice into serious account. The answer is far simpler: for the music captures the imagination, heart and soul of the player, and because it is some of the greatest music ever written for the cello.

SCHUBERT - JAHRESZEITEN (SEASONS)



6 009801 039251



TP1039251
Michelle Breedt
(mezzo)
Nina Schumann
(piano)

1 CD

Following the success of her previous disc with TwoPianists entitled Shakespeare Inspired, Michelle Breedt presents a beautiful collection of songs by Schubert in a compilation called Jahreszeiten (Seasons). The collection opens with the famous An die Natur, which becomes the central theme of The Seasons, for Schubert represents the Seasons through his observations of nature. And indeed nature is superbly represented through some of the composer's most hidden gems, including the mammoth Viola.

Michelle Breedt is no stranger to the international stages having appeared in numerous productions at the Salzburg Festspiele, Bayreuth and the ENO. Her recent appearances in The Passenger garnered extraordinary reviews. She has found the perfect partner in Nina Schumann, founding member of TwoPianists, and an accompanist of note. Together they will appear in Wigmore Hall, Tonhalle and the Schubertiade (Spain) in the 2013/2014 season.

Jahreszeiten is a rich document – attractive to both the eye and the ear.

Back Catalogue

SOIRRÉE Russe



6 009801 039114



TP1039114
Konstantin Scherbakov
(piano)

1 CD



Russia has long been a source of musical inspiration in the West. The Romantics in particular found the music of Russia fascinating, and public interest in Russian music has no doubt been fuelled by a general curiosity about sounds that seem exotic to Western ears. This recording features a Russian pianist, Konstantin Scherbakov, playing an all-Russian program. Some of the most powerful Russian repertoire are featured on this disc: Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, luminous Rachmaninoff pieces including the Elegy Op. 3 no.1 and Prokofiev's tumultuous Sonata no.7.

☆☆☆/☆☆☆☆ **Jordi Caturla González - Ritmo Magazine, Oct. 2012**

Scherbakov es un valor seguro.

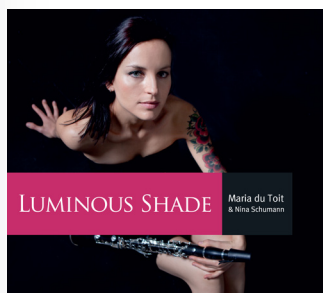
Christophe Huss, ClassicsToday, France, Oct. 2012

Scherbakov ce sont les notes plus la vision et ce parcours est fascinant, sans la moindre forfanterie.

LUMINOUS SHADE



6 009801 039145



Western art music tradition in South Africa is perhaps not well-known internationally but a rich tradition of excellence is evidenced by this very recording, which was recorded and produced in South Africa and features South African artists.

With Luminous Shade Maria du Toit and Nina Schumann take the listener on a journey: from Bozza's Paris, Hofmeyr's South Africa, Rheinberger's Germany and Martino's jazzy USA, to Benjamin's admiration for Ravel, Negrea's Romania and Bassi's Italian opera. The program features both lyricism and virtuosity and succeeds in illuminating the illusive clarinet sound.

TP1039145

Maria du Toit

(clarinet)

Nina Schumann

(piano)

1 CD

BRAHMS - THE SYMPHONIES



6 009801 039121



"Anyone who pages through the score of a symphony by Brahms is embarking on a special journey of discovery. The pages breathe passion and love, romance and deep humanity, wisdom and philosophy, the beauty of nature and sublime spirituality. Yet you cannot fail to recognize that not only does Brahms express his individuality, but he also engages in a dialogue with the masters of the past, from Bach to Beethoven. My relationship with the Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie was cemented from the very beginning with music by Brahms. With this same orchestra Brahms himself had performed his second Piano Concerto, his Alto Rhapsody, and the Hungarian Dances, in addition to Schumann's Piano Concerto and Beethoven's Choral Fantasy." - Daniel Raiskin

TP1039121

Daniel Raiskin

(conductor)

Staatsorchester

Rheinische

Philharmonie



3 CDs

Very strongly recommended. Fanfare

He is clearly a musician of sensibility, well versed in his craft. Gramophone

The sound is excellent. The buyer who picks this one won't suffer remorse. American Record Guide

SHAKESPEARE INSPIRED



6 009801 039077



South African-born Michelle Breedt has graced the most prominent concert and opera stages in Europe since her move to Germany in 1990. Appearing at, amongst others, the Salzburg and Bayreth Festivals and working with such luminaries as Ozawa, Tietmann, de Billy and Harnoncourt, her rich mezzo-soprano voice has elicited ecstatic reviews. TwoPianists Records is proud to announce its association with Michelle on a first disc featuring Shakespeare in song.

This disc represents a journey spanning 100 years of Shakespeare texts at the pen of his countrymen combined with a collage of 'english' atmospheric songs on nature and love.

TP1039077

Michelle Breedt

(mezzo)

Nina Schumann

(piano)

1 CD



Performed with great elegance. American Record Guide

Shakespeare in all possible sound colours. Die Rheinpfalz

Il mezzosoprano Michelle Breedt e la pianista Nina Schumann li interpretano in modo eccellente. Bresciaoggi

ME - ON WINGS OF SONG



TP1039107
Konstantin Scherbakov
(piano)



ME is a program not held together by historical circumstance or some sort of common theme. Instead the works are held together by the performer's commitment: a commitment to the love of music for music's sake. This personal selection by Konstantin Scherbakov, featuring such beautiful melodies as the Bach/Silotti Prelude in E minor, Lyadov Prelude Op.11, no.1, and the Mozart/Thalberg Lacrimosa from the Requiem, flies in the face of the domineering commercialization of musical performance.

*Each performance in ME shows Scherbakov's extraordinarily sophisticated microcosm of pianism. **Chopin Mag.***

*Scherbakov's tone and phrasing are seductive, the control of line impressive. **BBC Music Mag.***

*Is there such a thing as a thinking man's piano recital? We have one here. This is strongly recommended. **Ariama***

BEETHOVEN - CELLO & PIANO SONATAS



TP1039053
Peter Martens
(cello)
Luis Magalhães
(piano)

2 CDs

In this groundbreaking recreation of these six sonatas, Peter Martens and Luis Magalhães collaborated with Beethoven specialist Dr Stewart Young, aiming to bring the true intentions of the composer to the fore through seeking to incorporate a wide range of aspects of period performance practice which in their opinion will always retain its validity. While working imaginatively with such interpretative possibilities, the artists remained always within the fundamental tempi frameworks that Beethoven himself had insisted on, as stipulated by Carl Czerny. Uniquely steeped in things Beethovenian, he also provided detailed authentic and indispensable insights on interpretation - and they also incorporated much recent research on e.g. articulations and dynamics.

Winner of the South African Music Award 2011 for Best Classical Album.

*This recording is a splendid addition to the discography of these great works. **Strings Mag.***
*Peter Martens delivers brilliantly incisive and spirited accounts of all these works. **The Strad***
*This is a beautifully produced and recorded product with excellent sound. **FMR***

TWOPIANISTS



TP1039022
Nina Schumann
&
Luis Magalhães
(piano duo)

1 CD

This album was the first recording under their successful record label hence the celebratory nature of the title of this phenomenal CD: TwoPianists. The recording engineer involved in the production of this disc was Wolf-Dieter Karwatky, a 6-time Grammy Award winner.

*Two releases may not be quite enough to officially declare a major new duo talent, but from everything Luis Magalhães and Nina Schumann (husband and wife) have recorded, they are. **American Record Guide***

*Thrilling and flamboyant, tender and passionate, vibrant and dynamic. **MusicWeb International***

A troubadour "romance" is paraphrased ironically, a waltz impudently, and a polonaise mockingly, whereby the

RACHMANINOFF - TWO PIANO WORKS



TP1039039
**Nina Schumann
&
Luis Magalhães**
(piano duo)

2 CDs

To be sure, the character of this artistic collaboration is determined by a receptive empathy between two very different pianists. Playful charm intermingles with fastidious realization of text, delicate accuracy with impressively sonorous sound, percussive brilliance with meticulously formed singing lines.

The Schumann/Magalhaes duo are in full accord with this particular language of sound: inappeasable longing, melancholy coloured with cloudy premonitions, but also elegance and sweet-flowing melodiousness – all possible shadings are abundantly present.

PianoNews

The competition in the two-piano works is formidable, led by Ashkenazy-Previn and Argerich-Freire, and I must say that this set by Schumann-Magalhaes might have just edged into first place. American Record Guide

This set, sensitively recorded and thoughtfully put together, deserves great success.

International Record Review

Deutschland Radio - CD of the Week

BEN SCHOEMAN - LISZT



TP2039091
Ben Schoeman
(piano)

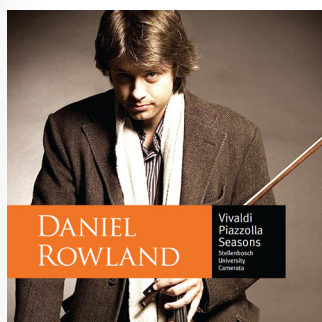
1 CD



In his debut solo-CD, released on the TwoPianists label's debut imprint, Ben Schoeman synchronizes his great love for Franz Liszt with the bicentenary celebrations of the composer's birth. A beautiful variety of Liszt works, from the gorgeous Les jeux d'eaux à la Villa d'Este to the monumental B minor Sonata, coupled with his 'dazzling virtuosity' and 'magical music-making' ensure the stamp of a unique artist on the rise. Schoeman has a lively international performing career. He has played in prestigious concert halls such as the Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Gulbenkian Auditorium in Lisbon and the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest.

The other two pieces are given in spectacular lyrical and colorful splashes of sound that captivate and thrill. American Record Guide

VIVALDI & PIAZZOLLA SEASONS



TP1039015
Daniel Rowland
(violin)
**Stellenbosch
University Camerata**

1 CD

Elation accompanied the release of the Seasons of Vivaldi and Piazzolla instantly raised the profile of the new group, Stellenbosch University Camerata, to that of a fun, vibrant and top quality South African chamber orchestra, comparable in many ways to fine internationally acclaimed ensembles of similar proportion. Spectacular violin soloist, Daniel Rowland, has performed this repertoire to standing ovation all over the world and his presence in South Africa has yielded electrifying results.

Winner of MTN South African Music Award 2010 (Classical)

In a sea of recordings, this disc succeeds because it goes to great lengths to bring out the many characters of the music, always in interesting and unexpected ways. La Scena Musicale Rowland, his vibrato rich and unfettered, treats the score very much as a first draft, a basis for improvisation to be executed with a rhythmic freedom that works wonderfully. The Strad

Recomendado sin reparos. Ritmo

JANÁČEK SCHUMANN SCHUBERT



TP1039084
Frank Stadler
 (violin)
Luis Magalhães
 (piano)

1 CD

With his first solo disc for the TwoPianists label, Frank Stadler explores the idiosyncrasies of three very different, yet very compatible composers. Luis Magalhaes, co-founder of TwoPianists Records, teams up with Frank Stadler for some extraordinarily sensitive, yet powerful playing.

First up is the Janacek sonata which are at times hair-raising and excruciating and other times tragic, tender and despondent. This work is matched by the introspective and fatalistic Schumann Sonata no.2, clearly driven by the challenging piano part. To finish the disc the Schubert Fantasy in C major, D.934, seems an odd choice: so technically demanding that the original audience in Vienna were aghast at all the 'tricks'. Yet there is an underlying restlessness that elevates the music far beyond any showcasing.

Perfectly capturing the wide mood swings. The Strad

This is an excellent recital, and Frank Stadler and Luis Magalhaes are excellent musicians.

American Record Guide

Some very impressive music-making by the present performers. Fanfare

ZOË BEYERS - MENDELSSOHN



TPD1039046
Zoë Beyers
 (piano)
Stellenbosch
University Camerata

1 CD



The Concerto for Violin and Piano in D minor is coupled with the early Concerto in D minor and balanced with the String Symphony no.10 in B minor, to highlight the composer's opulent string writing.

Where Mendelssohn wrote of his famous octet that the players should inspire to be a symphony, the works chosen for this disk strives for the reverse. The Camerata performs without conductor, resulting in an element of intensity normally associated with a chamber performance.

This beautiful Mendelssohn collection, performed by violinist Zoe Beyers, is another delight and definitely one to add to your favourites. The Citizen

FRANÇOIS DU TOIT



TP1039060
François Du Toit
 (piano)
Cape Town
Symphony
Orchestra

1 CD

The timing of this particular recording, featuring François du Toit on piano and Omri Hadari as conductor, in performances of Rachmaninoff's Paganini Rhapsody and the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto no.1, follows the narrative of South Africa's political milestones: it was recorded in 1992, the year in which Nelson Mandela was set free from prison, and released in 1994, the year of the first free elections in South Africa. This disc serves as a historical document of not only great orchestral and piano playing, but also of a tradition continued.

La poesía y el ensueño de la que ambos, director y pianista, hacen gala se convierte, sin duda, en la baza más seductora de su propuesta. Ritmo